

COVID-19 Notice

No in-person attendance allowed, pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28.

All meeting attendees, including Board of Commissioners, staff and members of the public must participate virtually. No physical meeting location will be provided.

To attend the meeting, dial Phone Conference Line: (509) 598-2842
When prompted, enter Conference ID number: 383682973

Jefferson County Public Hospital District No.2
Board of Commissioners, Special Session Minutes
Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Board Chair Buhler Rienstra. Present by phone and video were Commissioners Dressler, Kolff, McComas and Ready. Also, in attendance by phone was Alyssa Rodrigues, Administrative Assistant. This meeting was officially audio recorded by Jefferson Healthcare.

Resolution 2021-05:

The purpose of this special session was to discuss a revised version of Resolution 2021-05 of the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners in Support of Public Health and Healthcare Workers in the Matter of the Spread of Health Misinformation. Action may be taken.

Discussion ensued around the title of Resolution 2021-05.

Commissioner Kolff made a motion to change the title to Resolution 2021-05 Resolution of the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners in support of public health and healthcare workers and declaring health misinformation a public health crisis. Commissioner Ready seconded.

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued around the statement in #8, "...and which may lead to more cases and deaths in our community," instead of "... which leads to more cases and deaths in our community."

Commissioner Kolff made a motion to change the sentence in #8 to, "...leads to more cases and deaths in our community." Motion died for lack of second.

Commissioner Kolff suggested adding NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners declares Health misinformation a public health crisis and:... Commissioner McComas seconded.

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McComas made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-05 of the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners in support of public health and healthcare workers and declaring health misinformation a public health crisis. Commissioner Dressler seconded.

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dressler made a motion to conclude. Commissioner McComas seconded.

Meeting concluded at 2:37pm

Action: motion passed unanimously.

Approved by the Commission:

Chair of Commission: Jill Buhler Rienstra _____

Secretary of Commission: Marie Dressler _____

Resolution 2021-05

RESOLUTION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE
WORKERS AND DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Preamble:

“I am urging all Americans to help slow the spread of health misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Health misinformation is a serious threat to public health. It can cause confusion, sow mistrust, harm people’s health, and undermine public health efforts. Limiting the spread of health misinformation is a moral and civic imperative that will require a whole-of-society effort.”

Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., M.B.A. Vice Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service
Surgeon General of the United States

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-misinformation-advisory.pdf>

We, the Commissioners of Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 adopt this resolution in support of all public health and healthcare workers and declare health misinformation a public health crisis. In so doing, we adopt the following findings, facts, statements and good faith beliefs:

- 1) The coronavirus pandemic is surging in Jefferson County with more disease and more deaths than at any other time in the past twenty months.
- 2) Our healthcare system is at the breaking point, with a shortage of staff and critical care beds as well as overwhelmed emergency facilities.
- 3) Our public health services are stretched to the point where they can barely perform the best-practice COVID-19 case and contact tracing and follow-up.
- 4) Our dedicated healthcare and public health workers are working overtime, are psychologically stressed, and are physically exhausted by meeting the needs of our community.
- 5) Public health measures like masking, physical distancing, vaccinations and specific activity restrictions are proven ways of slowing the spread of this virus, saving lives, and ending the pandemic.
- 6) Allison Berry, M.D., M.P.H., the Public Health Officer for both Jefferson and Clallam Counties, found that unvaccinated patrons in bars and restaurants spread the virus and instead of closing down the industry or limiting occupancy, issued a vaccine mandate for bar and restaurant customers in order to help protect the local economy, the employees of those businesses, our vulnerable children, and our struggling healthcare and public health systems.

- 7) Some people in our community disagree with actions taken by Dr. Berry and have used intimidation and threats of violence to oppose reasonable and proven public health measures.
- 8) Some people discourage vaccinations by citing pandemic misinformation, which is not supported by valid scientific data provided by reliable professional experts, and which may lead to more cases and deaths in our community.
- 9) Some people are vaccine hesitant for a variety of reasons, some of which are based on misinformation, and which may be addressed with appropriate, compassionate advice or overcome with a variety of vaccination incentives and requirements, including employment vaccination requirements and privilege restrictions.
- 10) The health of our community depends not only on the behavior of us as individuals but also on the health of our healthcare and public health services and the essential workers who provide those services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 Board of Commissioners declares health misinformation a public health crisis, and:

- A. Urges all residents of our county to get vaccinated with age-approved vaccines, if medically appropriate;
- B. Urges all those who are spreading information about the vaccine and the pandemic to use reliable sources of data that follow the preponderance of evidence;
- C. Urges all those who disagree with public health mandates to use civil dialogue and to avoid intimidation and threats of violence; and
- D. Urges everyone in our community to appreciate, support and thank our dedicated public health and healthcare employees, since the health of our community depends on them.

APPROVED this 29th day of September 2021.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

Commission Chair Jill Buhler Rienstra: _____

Commission Secretary Marie Dressler: _____

Attest:

Commissioner Matt Ready: _____

Commissioner Kees Kolff: _____

Commissioner Bruce McComas: _____